

## Claims

- [c1] 1. An article gripping device for automation technology, the gripping device comprising:
- a base member (3) having a flat side (4);
  - at least one gripping element (20) having a gripping head (32) arranged on the flat side (4) of the base member (3);
  - wherein the gripping head (32) has a contact surface (33) resting against the article being gripped, wherein the gripping head (32) has an active gripping position in which an article is gripped and an initial position in which no article is gripped, wherein the contact surface (33) in the active gripping position is retracted relative to a first position of the contact surface (33) in the initial position of the gripping head (22);
  - wherein in the active gripping position the gripping element (20) is sunk into the flat side (4) of the base member (3) and the contact surface (33) of the gripping head (32) is positioned approximately in the plane of the flat side (4);
  - and
  - wherein the flat side (4) of the base member (3) forms a support surface for the article being gripped.
- [c2] 2. The gripping device according to claim 1, wherein the base member (3) has a receiving bore (17) for the at least one gripping element (20), wherein the gripping head (32) is positioned with minimal radial play in the receiving bore (17), wherein the receiving bore (17) has an inner circumferential surface (35) forming a lateral support for the gripping head (32).
- [c3] 3. The gripping device according to claim 1, wherein the base member (3) has a parallelepipedal shape and has inner recesses (8, 9).
- [c4] 4. The gripping device according to claim 3, wherein the inner recesses (8, 9) are open toward the flat side (4) and toward at least one lateral narrow side of the base member (3).
- [c5] 5. The gripping device according to claim 3, wherein the base member (3) has at least one mounting opening (16) arranged in the flat side (4) for the at least one gripping element (20) and wherein the inner recesses (8, 9) are greater than

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